# Saipan Tribune CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INSIDE

### Around the CNMI

### Drydocking project gets conditional OK

By AGNES E. DONATO

REPORTER

The Coastal Resources Management Office has approved with conditions a coastal permit for the drydocking of a vessel at the Saipan seaport.

The permit was given to Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc. to drydock M/V *Crystal II* for maintenance and repairs at the South Seaplane Ramp Commercial Port in Lower Base.

In granting his approval, CRM director Joaquin Salas included

certain conditions "to avoid direct and significant impacts on the Commonwealth's coastal resources and whenever possible, to mitigate foreseeable impacts."

The regulatory agency prohibited the disposal of paint, oil or other chemicals in the ocean or around the proposed project area, as well as the use of tributyltin-based antifouling bottom paint.

All materials, including any sandblasting residue scraped or removed from the boat should be swept up, collected, and properly disposed of in a 55gallon drum on a daily basis, CRM said. The drum should be disposed of with the advice of the Division of Environmental Quality and treated as a hazardous substance, it added.

Further, CRM directed Pacific Subsea not to remove paint in the rain in order to avoid runoff to the lagoon.

The drydocking company was also told to ensure that absorbents are readily available at the project site for use in case there is spillage.

"Projects [should] be under-

taken and completed so as to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance and protect the Commonwealth's inherent natural beauty and natural resources, so as to ensure the protection of the people's constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment," Salas said.

He added that upon the completion of the drydocking, the site should be restored to its original condition by hauling all non-hazardous debris to the designated public dump and not by burning them.

### Plane Pull competition pushed back to July 31

By SHAN SEMAN

Teams itching for the opportunity to showcase their strength and teamwork skills will have to wait a little under more as organizers of the "Plane Pull" competition have rescheduled the event, saying it is now slated to unfold on July 31.

Hosted by the American Red Cross, Continental Airlines,

and Commonwealth Authority Employees Association, the event is intended to raise funds for the NMI Red Cross Chapter, as well as "provide local busi-

nesses with an evening of fun and excitement for employees and families." It was originally set to take place on July 10.

The contest features the tough task of hauling a 145,000-lb Boeing 737 courtesy of Continental Airlines for a distance of 12 feet. The plane is 129 feet long, 41 feet high, and 112 feet wide.

Local businesses are urged to organize teams consisting of no more than 20 members, three of which must be women, who are not necessarily required to have affiliation with the business. However, the females must not be from other teams participating in the event.

Teams will pull on a rope attached to a tow bar that is connected to the front wheels of the aircraft. The team captain of each team will signal the start of the pull, with officials starting the stopwatch as soon as there is tension on the rope. Time on the stopwatch will cease the second the team pulls the aircraft across the 12-foot mark.

Times of each team will be recorded, and the team with the fastest time will be crowned champion, receiving the first place trophy, certificates and bragging rights. Trophies and certificates will also be pre-

sented to the second and third place finishers.

Organizers also disclosed in a statement that none of the participants would go home empty-handed, as t-shirts will be presented to each. Refreshments will also be provided.

Before suiting up for the task, though, each member is required to submit a signed waiver of liability and must present an ID for entry to the airport tarmac area. Each participant is also required

> to wear closed-toe footwear, such as athletic shoes, and gloves for protection while pulling the aircraft.

Each team is also required to submit a competition entry fee of \$750 payable to the American Red Cross.

The competition will be held at the Aircraft Parking Spot #1 of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, with check-in time at 7pm. The contest is set to begin at 8pm and is expected to end at midnight.

"This unique event, originally launched in 2001 during the 25th anniversary of the Saipan International Airport, is a great opportunity to support the Red Cross while promoting team building excellence for your staff and management," a statement from Red Cross read. "The NMI Chapter works closely with CPA and all involved in the transportation industry during disasters. The American Red Cross is part of the U.S. government Federal Aviation Disaster Response Plan and plays a critical role in providing assistance to victims and their families after an aviation or ship accident."

For more information or to pick up a team registration form, contact American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John I. Hirsh at 234-3459 or Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station chief Stanley C. Torres Jr. at 664-3542.

#### Liberation Festival continues

Liberation Day came and went but the 2004 Liberation Festival in Garapan continues to provide people with fun-filled rides, games, live entertainment, and a variety of food for all.

According to executive committee chair Victorino Cepeda, festival activities continue every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until August 6.

On hand to entertain tonight are the W & V group, Nani Kai Ahe group, local music artist Maggie Naputi, and Saipan's rock and rollers Split Attitude.

The festival, which kicked off

June 4, was originally scheduled to conclude July 6 but organizers decided to extend the conclusion date for another month.

Operations at the grounds, located at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church, were temporarily halted for five days after Typhoon Tingting's damaging winds knocked off electricity to the area and tore apart several booths. Organizers and crews, however, managed to resume activities in time for the crowning of 2004 Liberation Queen Leiana K. Ogumoro and her royal court. (Shan Seman)



C/O POL

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cars		
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### **WEATHER FORECAST**

#### PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.



#### SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers. **Temperature:** Lows near 78. Highs near 86.



#### GUAM AND ROTA

Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some Cloudy and Dieczy with Scattered and locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers. **Temperature:** Lows near 78. Highs near 86.



PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.



#### **POHNPEI**

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: East at 10 kt.



#### YAP AND ULITHI Partly cloudy with

isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.



#### **KOSRAE**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



#### **MAJURO**

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

	CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
2	Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
*	Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
	Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
	Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
2	London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
	Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
2	Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
*	Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
	Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
2	New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
1	Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
2	Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
1	Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
	Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
1	Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
*	San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
1	Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
1	Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
	Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)

### Opinion



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EDITORIAL	
EDITORIAL	

Los Angeles Times



#### Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.



**8** SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2004

### Our World At War

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verizon 60th ww2 cmyk	triple j

### United States

shipping liberation

ACROSS THE NATION		
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**20** SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

### Life & Style

### Life & Style

## 'Angels in America' leads Emmy nominations

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN

AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

A change in voting rules aimed at adding spice to the Emmys resulted in a nominations mix of TV's mainstream and cult favorites.

A lot of the old favorites are still there: "The Sopranos," "The West Wing," "Everybody Loves Raymond," but fellow contenders this time included Fox's low-rated sardonic comedy "Arrested Development," CBS popspirituality drama "Joan of Arcadia" and the star of the canceled sitcom "Life With Bonnie."

"It really is a fresh mix here. That's what we were trying to do, shake things up a little," TV Academy Chairman Dick Askin said.

Premium cable channel HBO dominated Thursday, receiving nearly twice as many nominations as any broadcast network and fielding many of the leading nominees.

"Angels in America," the HBO miniseries about vengeful ghosts, beatific angels and ordinary people enduring the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, had the most nominations with 21.

"The Sopranos," HBO's perennial nominee that has yet to win a best drama series award, was the leading nominee among regular shows with 20, including a first-ever best supporting actress bid for Drea de Matteo, who played the unlucky mob girlfriend Adriana.

"If you thought Adriana cried a lot ... you ain't seen nothin' yet. ...'cause I'm cryin' like crazy now," de Matteo said in a statement, written in her signature New-Yorkese.

TV Academy members gave a fond farewell to HBO's "Sex and the City" with a best comedy series nod for its final season, but didn't nominate two other departing series, NBC's "Friends" and "Frasier."

All four "Sex and the City" stars



picked up nominations: Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon in the supporting comedy actress category and Sarah Jessica Parker for lead comedy actress.

"We've never all been nominated, and that's really great," Nixon told The Associated Press. "And also you figure, we're not filming the show anymore, we feel like, 'Well, maybe people have moved on.' But it's nice to see that they remember us."

Joining Parker in the lead comedy actress class was Bonnie Hunt of "Life with Bonnie," which ABC recently canceled.

Meanwhile, John Ritter, the "8 Simple Rules" comedy star who died last year, received a posthumous nomination as best lead actor in a comedy series.

Along with "The Sopranos" and "Joan

of Arcadia," other nominees in the best drama series category were "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "24," and last year's winner, "The West Wing."

Joining "Arrested Development" and "Sex and the City" in the best comedy series category: "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Will & Grace" and last year's winner, CBS' "Everybody Loves Raymond."

"The Reagans," which was bounced from CBS to cable's Showtime after some complained it was unfair to President Reagan, received seven nominations including outstanding made-for-TV movie. James Brolin and Judy Davis, who played Ronald and Nancy Reagan, received acting nods.

"The Reagans" producer Craig Zadan said he felt relief. "The last six months have been so harrowing, at first being attacked for a movie that nobody had even seen. And a friend said ... 'My fear for you is that people will not judge the movie on its merits but judge it by the controversy.' And today the Hollywood community, thank God, stood behind us and judged it on its merits."

Other nominees in the TV movie category: "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself," "Something the Lord Made," "Ike: Countdown to D-Day" and "The Lion in Winter."

HBO received 124 nominations, nearly twice that of runner-up NBC with 65 bids. CBS received 44 nominations; ABC had 33, Fox 31 and PBS 27.

"Angels in America" was nominated as outstanding miniseries and earned acting bids for stars Emma Thompson, Al Pacino and Meryl Streep. Playwright Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning story was a risky proposition at the start.

'We all felt that way. Even (director Mike Nichols) didn't know how it was going to come out as a movie. Under his tutelage it took on a life of its own and became a whole new beast," said Justin Kirk, who played a recently diagnosed AIDS patient who was abandoned by his lover.

Kirk competes against three costars—Patrick Wilson, Ben Shenkman and Jeffrey Wright-and William H. Macy for "Stealing Sinatra" in the supporting movie or miniseries actor category. "We're all pitted now against each other, so there's no celebrating," Kirk joked.

Other nominated miniseries were "American Family: Journey of Dreams," "Horatio Hornblower," "Prime Suspect 6: The Last Witness" and "Traffic: The Miniseries."

Nominees for the reality series category were Donald Trump's hit "The Apprentice," "The Amazing Race," "American Idol," "Last Comic Standing" and "Survivor."

A total of 433 nominations were announced in an early morning ceremony by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

In February, the academy shook up Emmy rules to freshen a competition that repeatedly saw the same shows vying for and winning trophies. Academy members were given the opportunity to choose up to 10 nominees per category, double the previous number, with the top five vote-getters ending up as the nominees in each category.

Although that's the same number of contenders as in the past, the academy hoped the mix would be more representative of the growing bounty of programming on cable and newer broadcast channels.

### 'Sex and the City' heads to Singapore

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—This famously strait-laced city-state was bombarded Thursday with garish, pink, full-page notices that—at long last—its citizens can enjoy "Sex and the City."

that will air the series from Friday night, took out the hard-to-miss advertisements in the conservative Straits Times newspaper and several other dailies to announce the show's imminent arrival.

The raunchy tale of four New York women and their relationships was long deemed too indecent for Singaporean audiences by the city-state's busy censors. This restriction became emblematic of the country's strict censorship rules, which either cut or ban outright dozens of movies each year.

The government says the tight web of rules are needed to protect conservative social values in the multicultural nation of 4 million.

But last September, in what's seen as a mild relaxation of those rules, the authorities said it was now OK for locals to keep up with the adventures of Carrie Bradshaw and her pals-provided scenes with nudity or bad language were clipped.

The government has also taken other HBO Asia, the cable television station minor steps to ease up, such as permitting bar-top dancing—previously deemed too dangerous-and ditching a ban on bungee jumping.

> However, most basic political and social controls remain. Public political gatherings are largely outlawed without a police permit, and Singapore regularly fines its citizens for spitting, littering and not flushing public toilets.

> HBO Asia said it would kick off "Sex and the City" with the fifth season of the show, and follow that up with the sixth season starting from Aug. 17.

> The company's advertisements which featured the show's star, actress Sarah Jessica Parker, gazing skyward from a park bench—teased readers with simplistic relationship queries, such as "Can you be friends with an ex?" and "Do women just want to be rescued?"

Summer concert tours hit early slump

CHICAGO (AP)—When it comes to

concert tours, the good times are not

Major acts like Britney Spears,

Marc Anthony and Christina Aguilera,

as well as large-scale festivals like

Lollapalooza, all pulled the plug on

In some cases personal problems, like

Spears' knee injury, were to blame. An-

thony said he called off his tour to focus

on production of his next album. Indus-

try insiders, however, point to a much

"People aren't buying tickets," said

Gary Bongiovanni, editor in chief of

Pollstar, the concert industry trade mag-

azine. "For whatever reason, ticket sales

dried up around the middle of April—it

the top 50 shows through June, gross

revenues were up 11 percent to \$753.5

million, but ticket sales were down 2

percent to 12.8 million, with ticket

prices up almost 13 percent.

According to a Pollstar analysis of

was widespread across the industry."

bigger issue: falling ticket sales.

their tours before they even started.

rolling this summer.

The average price of a ticket shot up from \$26.05 in 1995 to \$50.35 last year, according to Pollstar.

"Ticket prices have gone crazy very, very, very high, and nobody knows how to change that tide," said veteran concert booker Jonny Podell.

When I was kid, I didn't have to make a big commitment to go to concerts," he said. "My children don't have the same discretionary income that I have. When they're excited about a show ... and they hear a \$300 price, they get very unexcited."

Donald Law, chairman and co-CEO of Clear Channel Entertainment's music division, which owns or operates 135 venues in North America, admitted that prices are high.

"We have provided \$10 and \$20 tickets to many of our amphitheater shows in many of our markets over the last couple of years and we do this in an effort to make tickets accessible for fans," he said.

Tom Gray, whose band Gomez was

on the Lollapalooza bill, said he had a feeling the tour might not go off.

"The sheer size of Lollapalooza was really too mammoth to pull off," he said from his home in England. "Kids are likely to wait until the last minute (to buy tickets). It makes it hard to organize these money spinners where you have to count on advance sales to pull it off. It's just a shame really."

And when an artist cancels, the fans aren't the only ones who suffer. Supporting talent on the bill can feel the ripple effect, too.

Sixteen-year-old Canadian newcomer Skye Sweetnam was set to open for Spears. Her debut album is scheduled for a September release on Capitol Records, and the tour could have served as a launching pad for her burgeoning career.

Now, as Sweetnam puts it, she'll have to scramble to pull together a media tour and perform small acoustic shows to get the word out.

### Orlando Bloom attracts attention in Ky.

VERSAILLES, Ky. (AP)— Some central Kentucky residents got a taste of Hollywood when director Cameron Crowe filmed scenes in Versailles for his latest movie, "Elizabethtown."

But Crowe didn't attract as much attention as Orlando Bloom, the movie's male lead.

Girls lined up on Main Street Thursday to shout, "We love you, Orlando!" to the 27-yearold actor, who was behind the wheel of a gray Mercury sedan that went up and down the street for multiple takes.

Bloom's films include "The Lord of the Rings" movies and "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl."

"Wow, this is unbelievable!" said 9-year-old Emily Frangedakis, who joined her sister, Eleni, 11, in serenading Bloom.

#### **Marvel sues Disney** over comic royalties

By GARY GENTILE

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marvel Enterprises Inc., creators of such comic book superheroes as "Spider-Man" and "The Incredible Hulk" is suing The Walt Disney Co. in a royalty dispute over animation programs aired on Disney's ABC Family channel.

Marvel is asking for nearly \$55 million in compensatory damages, interest and other fees it says it is owed for royalties generated by madefor-television episodes of "Spider-Man," "X-Men" and "The Incredible Hulk."

The agreements at issue in the lawsuit, filed late Thursday in Los Angeles County Superior Court, were made before Disney acquired Fox Family Worldwide in 2001. The lawsuit claims Disney has not kept accurate records of royalties due under those inherited agreements.

Disney spokesman John Spelich said the company had not yet seen the lawsuit and could not comment.

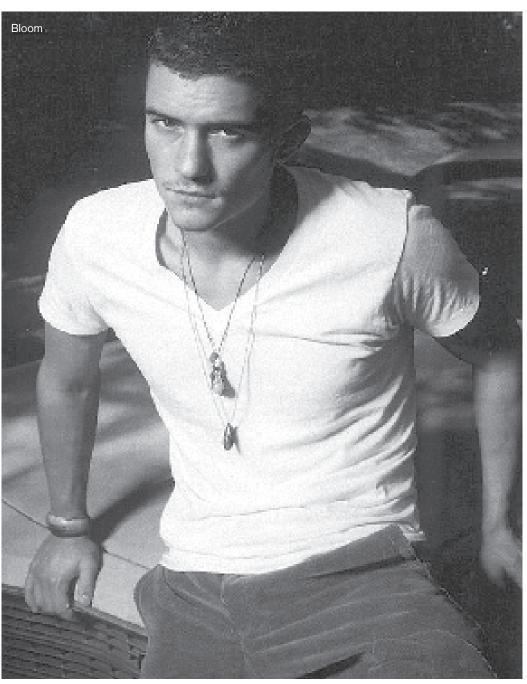
Episodes of all three shows were made in the late 1990s and Disney inherited the right to air them and sell the shows on home video and into foreign markets, the lawsuit claims.

Marvel claims it is owed millions of dollars in royalties, including from the licensing of music associated with the shows.

It also claims Disney failed to aggressively market the shows, especially in light of the popularity the three titles have gained from the successful theatrical movies made by other studios.

"Indeed, although Disney is the heir to these important rights, it has treated these profitable properties as second rate," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit, which claims \$54.8 million in total damages, does acknowledge that Disney did pay some disputed royalties when asked.



#### Blake's murder trial to begin Nov. 1

judge Friday reluctantly granted actor Robert Blake a two-month Thomas Mesereau Jr. resigned delay in his murder trial, with jury

selection now set to start Nov. 1.

Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp relented after Blake's new attorney asked for more time and prosecutors did not object.

"I have looked at Blake the case with different

eyes than people who preceded me and I'm pursuing things that have not been pursued," said

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A M. Gerald Schwartzbach, who became Blake's attorney after in a dispute with the actor.

> Prosecutor Shellie Samuels told the judge she anticipates a two-month trial, while Schwartzbach said his estimate is four months. The trial had been scheduled to get under way on Sept. 9.

Blake, the former star of the "Baretta" TV series, is charged with murdering his 44-year-old wife, Bonny Bakley, on May 4, 2001. She was shot to death in their car outside a restaurant where they had dined. Blake, 70, has said he is innocent.

Outside court, Schwartzbach was asked what he meant about viewing the case with new eyes.

"Every lawyer is going to come into a case and view it from a different perspective," said Schwartzbach, the fourth attorney to represent Blake. "A lawsuit is like a piece of modern art. Every time you come back and look at it you see things you didn't see before."

### 'N Sync to perform for their charity

**NEW YORK** (AP)—'N Sync the Children Foundation. haven't completely gone "Bye, Bye, Bye."

The boy-band pop group will perform together for the first time since the 2003 Grammy Awards as part of a benefit for their charity, the Challenge for

The event will be held July 23-25 in Miami. The five 'N Sync members, including Justin Timberlake, will sing the national anthem before a charity basketball game.

Celebrities expected to attend include actress Shannon

Elizabeth, Jamie-Lynn DiScala of "The Sopranos" and rapper Jermaine Dupri.

Challenge for the Children Foundation was created by 'N Sync in 1999 to raise money for children's programs and charities throughout the country.

#### Prince says he wants less explicit lyrics

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Prince is turning down his mojo.

"I have a responsibility to (young fans) to perform in a manner that I would like my children to be performed in front of," he says in an interview to air Tuesday on

CBS News' "The Early Show." Prince, who has written songs such as "Gett Off," "I Wanna Be Your Lover" and "Kiss," says he's moving away from the explicitly erotic lyrics of the past.

"I just want to be the best human being I can be...on stage and off," he says. Excerpts of the interview were released in advance.

The 46-year-old singer-song-

writer is listed as the No. 1 "greatest rock frontman" of all time, beating out Mick Jagger and Robert Plant, in the August issue of Spin magazine.

Prince earned a 10 out of 10 for sex appeal, in a vote of editors, and kudos for singing like an "oversexed elf."

#### Perfectionist dad makes life perfectly miserable

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY**: I have been married five years to a man I truly love. The problem is, he's a "neat freak," and it's destroying our marriage.

I work full time, commute about 100 miles a day, raise two children with whom I spend a lot of time, cook a homemade dinner almost every night, and keep the house clean. It is never enough for him. I walk on eggshells trying to keep the house according to his standards and let my children be children and have fun.



If the kids are going to have friends overnight, I make sure it's on a night when he'll be gone. Our children can't go barefoot in the yard, and our shoes must be removed at the door and kept in perfect alignment. If the children eat cookies at the kitchen table, he complains about the crumbs.

He was gone this weekend. The children and I cleaned the house, picked lemons from our trees and baked him a homemade pie, and prepared a nice dinner for him. When he got home all he did was yell because someone had tracked mud on the porch. He never even said hello. My 3-year-old kept saying, "Daddy, we made you a pie and cooked supper," but he wouldn't stop griping.

Please help. Divorce is not an option because it would destroy the children. How can I get him to realize that his obsessive-compulsive disorder is hurting our family? He thinks it is normal.

AT MY WIT'S END IN TEXAS

DEAR WIT'S END: Your husband's behavior is "normal"—for him. It won't change until you realize that the only thing more destructive to a child than divorce is trying to please a sick parent who is impossible to please.

For their sakes, if not for yours, DEMAND that your husband consult a therapist about his problem. Thankfully, it is one that's treatable.

Please don't wait any longer to assert yourself. Do not back down. When a 3-year-old can recognize that your husband's behavior doesn't make sense, it's time to draw

**DEAR ABBY**: Every Wednesday I go to a teen hip-hop class to dance and have fun. On one of those occasions, my friend "Tracy" came to class crying. My friends and I asked her what was wrong and she said her dad had hit her. We asked her why, and she said it was because she was on the phone too long. She showed us the bruises on her arms and legs. They looked very bad.

I told Tracy she could come home with me and she said, "No thanks. I'm fine." This week, she didn't make it to dance class. If she shows up with bruises again, should I make her come home with me and call the police? Please, Abby, I don't want Tracy to get hurt anymore.

SAD AND CONFUSED IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SAD AND CONFUSED: If it happens again, get the dance teacher involved. It is important that an adult document what is happening, and teachers are required by law to report abuse. You are a caring friend, and Tracy is lucky to have you. It is not unusual for an abuse victim to protect her (or his) abuser. The victim may be afraid that speaking out will cause the abuse to escalate. If Tracy does not return to class, a report can be made by calling Child-Help U.S.A. The phone number is (800) 422-4453.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone-teens to seniors-is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a businesssize, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)















### Kendall leads British Open by one stroke

By DOUG FERGUSON



TROON, Scotland (AP)—A memorable week at the British Open turned surreal for Skip

Kendall on Friday. Kendall, 0-for-310 in his 10 seasons on the PGA Tour, holed out from a pot bunker for birdie and rolled in a 50-foot eagle putt for a 5-under 66 and one-shot lead over Thomas Levet of France.

Kendall started the week by bringing his mother to Britain to celebrate her 80th birthday. Then he had his first brush with royalty, shaking hands with Prince Andrew behind the 11th green at Royal Troon.

But the real fun came Friday. What more could a guy want? A claret jug wouldn't be bad.

"I really feel like I can win out on the PGA Tour, as well as any place else," Kendall said. "I think it's just a matter of time. Hopefully, this will be mine."

Kendall is playing in only his third British Open and 14th major championship, but he has been around long enough to realize what awaits on the weekend at Royal Troon. And if playing in the final group isn't daunting enough, he needs only to glance over his shoulder to see a cast of challengers with far greater credentials.

Vijay Singh and Ernie Els were among those three shots behind.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson and U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen were lurking four shots back, along with former Masters champion Mike Weir.

"We've put ourselves in contention," Els said. "Let's see what happens."

Tiger Woods was six back, keeping alive his hopes of ending an 0-for-8 drought in the majors.

"I'm right there with a chance," he said after a 71.

Everyone is chasing a 39-year-old journeyman who used to wait tables at an Olive Garden in Florida and hit balls in a grassy field - still wearing his black trousers, white shirt and bow tie—be-



Skip Kendall of the United States celebrates after making an eagle on the 16th on the second day of the British Open golf championship at Royal Troon golf course in Troon, Scotland Friday July 16, 2004.

tween the lunch and dinner shifts.

Kendall is scrappy at 150 pounds and full of self-belief. When he sat down for his interview and noticed some names scribbled on the veneer table, he figured he was supposed to sign it, too. But a Royal & Ancient official politely told him that it was only for British Open champions, and he would have to wait until Sunday night.

"I know there's a long way to go and this is only halfway done," said Kendall, who was at 7-under 135. "Hopefully, I'll be signing my name right here in a couple of days."

What promised to be a second round of raging winds was merely a replica of the first day, with only a fresh breeze off the Firth of Clyde that hardly kept the world's top players from good scores.

Levet, who qualified for the British Open by winning last week in Loch Lomond with a final-round 63, made two quick birdies and was the leader for most of the day. He wound up with a 70, his only blemish coming at the 12th when a chip up the slope rolled back to his feet.

"You look like an idiot when you make mistakes like that," Levet said. "It's what happens when you play so good. I was not missing a green. I didn't have a chip since yesterday."

K.J. Choi (69) and Barry Lane of England (70) were at 137, while the heavy-weights weighed in at 4-under 138.

Els had another great performance at the Postage Stamp eighth hole that only felt like another ace. His tee shot landed in an awkward lie in the bunker, he blasted out to 30 feet and made it for par. Els also chipped in for birdie on the par-3 14th and wound up with a 69 for the fifth straight time at Royal Troon.

"I guess it's a good number for Troon," Els said with slight resignation.

"We had good weather again today, so I felt I could have shot better than that. But I shot what I shot."

The loudest cheers were for Colin Montgomerie, who grew up at Troon and returned for the first time with low expectations because of personal strife (an impending divorce) and a bad game (No. 71 in the world). Monty is living large at this Open, his round not even ruined by missing a 2-foot par putt on the final hole.

"Forget that," Montgomerie said. "A perfect round of golf has never been played on a links course and never will be. I would have taken 69 to start the day."

Also at 138 were Todd Hamilton (67) and Michael Campbell (71).

Mickelson tied Kendall for the best round of the day, boosted by four birdies on the first six holes that carried him to a bogey-free 66. It matched Lefty's best round in a British Open, the only major where he has failed to finish in the top 10. He also had a 66 in the second round at St. Andrews in 2000.

"I'm not thinking about winning just yet," Mickelson said. "I'm four shots back of a lot of people. I may have to play another great round, and if I'm going to make up shots, I've got to do it on the front nine."

The cut came at 3-over 145, sending defending champion Ben Curtis (75-74) home without the claret jug. Also missing the cut was Greg Norman (73-76) for the first time since 1980.

Woods extended his cut streak to 127 tournaments, although he needs a great round to get into serious contention. He has made only six birdies in relatively tame conditions at Royal Troon, unable to get the ball in close range.

Then again, two of Kendall's most memorable shots were hardly tap-ins.

He hit into a pot bunker on the par-4 third hole and was starting to get edgy about his game. All that changed when he popped it out and watched it disappear into the cup.

"A pretty easy bunker shot, but how many times does the ball go into the hole?" he said. "It got my day going."

He also ended it in style, hitting a 3-wood just short of the 16th green, close enough for him to use his putter. The ball climbed onto the green and never left its line until it kissed the pin and dropped for eagle.

Until then, the highlight was seeing Prince Andrew during the first round. He learned the protocol, greeting him with "Your Royal Highness," and chatted briefly.

"That was pretty exciting for me," Kendall said. "Seemed like a great guy."

By the end of the round, Kendall was the star attraction. Not bad for a career grinder who thought enough of the British Open that he flew to Congressional for the U.S. qualifying round, which was marred by 52 no-shows.

For those Americans who didn't turn up for the qualifier, Kendall is showing them what they're missing.

### Lance Armstrong climbs toward sixth Tour title

By JOHN LEICESTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



LA MONGIE, France (AP)—The mountains bring out

the best in Lance Armstrong. The Tour de France champion took a big step toward a record sixth straight crown Friday with a display of climbing in the Pyrenees that left contenders dazed.

Jan Ullrich, Tyler Hamilton, Iban Mayo and Roberto Heras saw their dreams of dethroning the Texan fade as Armstrong's blue jersey disappeared into the distance on a punishing ascent to the La Mongie ski station.

Armstrong moved from sixth to second in the overall standings following a ride in which he was runner-up to stage winner Ivan Basso of Italy.

Armstrong is 5:24 behind France's Thomas Voeckler, but Ullrich is the champion's main challenger. Another Pyrenean stage will be run Saturday, and the Alps and a final time trial are still to come before the July 25 finish.

"Jan's not finished," Armstrong said.

"He starts slow and he's a tough guy who doesn't give up. He might have taken one on the chin today, but he always comes back and is strong in the last week."

Armstrong is indeed comfortable in these parts. The last time the Tour covered this route—in 2002—Armstrong won both stages. Now, if Armstrong's rivals need to quickly find a way to unsettle the 32-year-old cycling great. Otherwise, another victory most likely awaits in Paris.

Armstrong was not going all out at the end of Friday's 12th stage, content to let Basso win a stage for the first time in four Tours.

"It was a pleasure for me to let him win," Armstrong said. "He was super strong."

Ullrich, abandoned in the 8-mile final ascent, finished 20th, a daunting 2 minutes, 30 seconds behind. The German, the 1997 winner and a five-time runner-up, was thrown off by a storm doused riders as they ascended the first of two climbs.

"It was a bad day," he said. "I noticed at the first mountain I didn't have good legs and I was cold on the downhill. But I fought until the end. With good weather and good legs, maybe I can come back."

His team manager, Walter Godefroot, added: "I don't know what to say, it's really an uppercut. ... "We're groggy."

Just 55 seconds behind before Friday's stage, Ullrich now trails Armstrong by 3:37 overall—a possibly insurmountable margin. Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by just 61 seconds.

Baking sunshine followed by rain on the 122.7-mile trek from Castelsarrasin in southwest France played into Armstrong's hands.

"First the heat, then the thunder, then the sun again," Armstrong said. "For the overall standings it is great."

A burst of speed by Armstrong's teammates did initial damage on the final climb, leaving other riders flailing. Armstrong and Basso were alone over the last 1.2 miles, riding together to the line. Armstrong finished in the same time as Basso and earned 12 bonus seconds as runner-up.

"Armstrong is the strongest man on this Tour," Basso said. "I think he's still got gas in his tank." Hamilton, an American and former Armstrong teammate, was the first major rival to fall off the back of the pack. He finished 3:27 behind and trails Armstrong by 4:22 overall. He said a back injury from crash last week prevented him from doing better.

Heras, another former teammate turned challenger, was 2:57 slower and saw his overall deficit to Armstrong grow to 5:18.

Iban Mayo, a Basque rider hoping for victory in front of the tens of thousands of supporters who lined the wet route, was only 1:03 back, in ninth place. But his Tour had been all but lost in a crash in the first week and he trails Armstrong by 6:42.

Voeckler also struggled in the last climb but limited the damage. He placed 41st, 3:59 behind, and saw his overall lead on Armstrong shrink. He led by more than nine minutes at the start of the stage.

"When they accelerated in the final climb I couldn't follow and I finished as best I could." he said.

Voeckler acknowledged he could

lose the yellow jersey in Saturday's even more punishing stage.

"I will fight but I don't know if it will be enough," he said. "It's not news that Lance Armstrong loves this bad weather. When the sun is out, his adversaries will be more comfortable."

If Armstrong triumphs and his challengers falter again, the 127.7-mile route from Lannemezan to the Plateau de Beille could prove decisive. The route has seven climbs, including a monstrous final ascent.

"I think he's going to strike a sword blow," said French rider Richard Virenque, 37th on Friday, 3:27 back.

Basso, anointed the Tour's best young rider in 2002, is the closest real challenger, 1:09 behind in sixth place. He finished 11th in the 2002 Tour and improved to seventh last year. He said before the start of the Tour he does not expect to unseat Armstrong this year.

"He can be one of the next two winners," said Basso team manager Bjarne Riis, the 1996 Tour winner. "I don't know if he's ready for the

### Detroit's Maroth one-hits Yankees

Maroth pitched a one-hitter, Ivan Rodriguez had a two-run double in a fiverun fifth and the Detroit Tigers matched their win total from last season with an 8-0 victory over the New York Yankees on

Gary Sheffield's double in the fourth was the lone hit against Maroth, and Sheffield was the only Yankees baserunner to reach second.

Friday night.

"It was unbelievable having a sold-out crowd, standing on their feet for the ninth inning, getting louder and louder," said Maroth, who tied a career high with seven strikeouts and walked two. "I usually smile, but I'm going to be smiling for a while."

The Tigers (43-46) already have as many wins as they did last season when they lost an American League-record games, one short of the post-1900 futility mark. Maroth (6-7), who lost 21 games last season, got his first major league shutout.

"You knew things would get better for him because of the way he went out there last year," Alex Rodriguez said. "He showed a lot of character."

Javier Vazquez (10-6) gave up eight runs—seven earned on eight hits over 4 1-3 innings, in his worst outing since giving up seven runs on May 6 at Oakland.

#### **Devil Rays 2, Orioles 0**

In St. Petersburg, Florida, John Halama allowed three hits over eight innings to help Tampa Bay beat Baltimore and stop a fivegame losing streak.

Rocco Baldelli hit an RBI double with two outs in the third inning and scored on Aubrey Huff's single.

#### Rangers 11, Blue Jays 2

In Arlington, Texas, Ryan Drese (5-5) pitched into the eighth, allowing just one earned run as Texas trounced Toronto.

Drese has all of his wins at home, where his 1.91 ERA is the second-best in the American League behind Oakland's Tim Hudson. He left after Dave Berg's leadoff single in the eighth.

#### Royals 12, Twins 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Dee Brown hit a grand slam and Desi Relaford a two-run shot in the third inning as Kansas City dominated Minnesota.

Brown hit his second career grand slam off Brad Radke (5-

6) in the six-run third. He had an sent Andy Pettitte to his second (AP)—Mike RBI single off Joe Roa with the bases full in the four-run fourth and struck out against Grant Balfour with two out and the bases loaded in the fifth. He finished with a career-high five RBIs.

#### Athletics 5 White Sox 1

In Oakland, California, Barry Zito pitched seven strong innings for his first win in seven starts, and Jermaine Dye hit a three-run homer to lead Oakland past Chicago.

Dye had three hits and Marco Scutaro had an RBI double for the A's, who beat Chicago at the Coliseum for the 15th time in 16 games. Oakland has won 22 of its last 25 at home overall.

#### Indians 18, **Mariners 6**

In Seattle, Victor Martinez hit three of Cleveland's club recordtving eight homers and drove in a career-high seven runs as the Indians thrashed Seattle.

Matt Lawton, Martinez and Casey Blake connected for consecutive homers in a six-run third inning for the Indians. In the ninth, Martinez, Travis Hafner and Ben Broussard all homered off Julio Mateo. And Jody Gerut connected off Mike Myers for Cleveland's eighth homer, which tied the club record set at Milwaukee April 25, 1997.

#### Red Sox 4, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Pedro Martinez won his sixth straight decision and Nomar Garciaparra homered as Boston beat Anaheim.

Martinez (10-3) allowed two runs on five hits and four walks in six innings, while striking out eight. The three-time Cy Young winner improved his career record against Anaheim to 9-1 while ending the Angels' fourgame winning streak.

#### Phillies 5, Mets 1

In New York, Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 29th home run, and Kevin Millwood pitched three-hit ball for seven innings to lead the Philadelphia Phillies over the Mets.

Bobby Abreu also homered and drove in two runs for the Phillies, who bounced back from an 11-inning loss in the opener of the four-game series. Thome finished with three RBIs, and Jimmy Rollins stole two bases.

#### Padres 5, Astros 1

In Houston, Phil Garner opened his tenure as manager of Houston with a loss to San Diego.

Mark Loretta's three-run double backed Jake Peavy, who

SML championship starts tomorrow

straight loss.

#### Pirates 6, Marlins 2

In Pittsburgh, Kris Benson made another strong start as he apparently winds down his Pittsburgh career, limiting Florida to two runs over 8 1-3 innings.

Benson (7-7), being eyed by a half-dozen contending teams as the July 31 deadline for trades without waivers approaches, helped the Pirates win their eighth in a row at home.

#### Cardinals 7, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, pinch-hitter Marlon Anderson hit a threerun homer in the eighth inning off Cincinnati closer Danny Graves, the major leagues saves leader with 33, to give St. Louis

Reggie Sanders hit a two-run single off Graves (1-4) to make it 5-4 before Anderson's blast. It was Graves' eighth blown save in 41 opportunities.

#### **Brewers 3, Cubs 2**

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Brooks Kieschnick singled in the goahead run in the seventh inning as Milwaukee edged Chicago.

Victor Santos (9-3) allowed four hits and two runs in six innings to win for the seventh time in his last eight decisions.

#### Expos 5, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Jose Vidro homered and had three hits to help Montreal knock Atlanta out of first place.

Nick Johnson added two hits, including an RBI double in the eighth off Chris Reitsma, and the Expos' bullpen pitched 4 1-3 shutout innings.

#### **Rockies 7, Giants 1**

In Denver, Todd Greene hit two long homers and drove in four runs and Shawn Estes scattered seven hits over eight innings after a nearly 21/2 hour rain delay as Colorado trounced San Francisco.

Colorado gave up four runs in the ninth inning in a disheartening 7-5 loss to San Francisco on Thursday, but didn't give the Giants a chance to come back in this one.

#### Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Alex Cora drove in two runs with squeeze bunts to help Los Angeles beat Arizona and win for the 11th time in 12 games.

Kazuhisa Ishii (11-4) improved to 7-1 against the Diamondbacks, including 4-0 this year, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings.

#### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

#### **MLB STANDINGS**

#### **AMERICAN LEAGUE**

Edot Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
New York	56	32	.636	_		
Boston	49	39	.557	7		
Tampa Bay	43	46	.483	3 1/2		
Toronto	39	50	.438	7 1/2		
Baltimore	38	49	.437	7 1/2		

#### **Central Division**

Chicago	46	40	.535	_
Minnesota	47	42	.528	1/2
Cleveland	43	46	.483	4 1/2
Detroit	43	46	.483	4 1/2
Kansas City	33	54	.379	3 1/2

#### **West Division**

Texas	50	37	.575	_
Oakland	49	39	.557	1 1/2
Anaheim	48	41	.539	3
Seattle	33	55	.375	7 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 2, Baltimore 0 Detroit 8, N.Y. Yankees 0 Texas 11, Toronto 2 Kansas City 12, Minnesota 3 Oakland 5, Chicago White Sox 1 Cleveland 18, Seattle 6 Boston 4, Anaheim 2

#### **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

#### **East Division** Philadelphia 47 42 .528

Atlanta	46	43	.517	1
Florida	45	44	.506	2
New York	45	44	.506	2
Montreal	32	57	.360	15

#### **Central Division**

St. L	_ouis	56	33	.629	_
Chic	cago	48	41	.539	8
Milw	<i>r</i> aukee	46	42	.523	9 1/2
Cinc	cinnati	47	43	.522	9 1/2
Hou	ston	44	45	.494	12
Pitts	burgh	40	47	.460	15

#### **West Division**

Los Angeles	50	38	.568	_
San Francisco	50	41	.549	1 1/2
San Diego	48	41	.539	2 1/2
Colorado	37	52	.416	3 1/2
Arizona	31	60	.341	0 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 6, Florida 2 Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Mets 1 St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 5 Montreal 5, Atlanta 1 San Diego 5. Houston 1 Colorado 7, San Francisco 1 Los Angeles 6. Arizona 2?

#### **BRITISH OPEN**

69-66 135

#### SECOND ROUND Skip Kendall, United States

Thomas Levet, France	66-70	136
Barry Lane, England	69-68	137
Choi K.J., South Korea	68-69	137
Michael Campbell, New Zealand	67-71	138
Vijay Singh, Fiji	68-70	138
Todd Hamilton, United States	71-67	138
Ernie Els, South Africa	69-69	138
Colin Montgomerie, Scotland	69-69	138
Mike Weir, Canada	71-68	139
Kenny Perry, United States	69-70	139
Retief Goosen, South Africa	69-70	139

#### Scott Verplank, United States 69-70 139 72-68 140 Rodney Pampling, Australia 73-67 140 Kim Felton, Australia Gary Emerson, England 70-71 141 Darren Clarke, Northern Ireland 69-72 141 Adam Scott, Australia 73-68 141 Tiger Woods, United States 70-71 141

Gary Evans, England 68-73 141 72-69 141 71-70 141

74-68 142

69-73 142

69-73 142

75-67 142

71-72 143

71-72 143

68-75 143

72-71 143

71-72 143

74-69 143

70-73 143

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72-73 145

69-76 145

68-77 145

73-72 145

75-70 145

71-74 145

71-74 145

73-72 145

73-72 145

73-72 145

Davis Love III, United States Stuart Appleby, Australia David Toms, United States 71-71 142 Marten Olander, Sweden 68-74 142 Steve Lowery, United States 69-73 142 68-74 142

Phil Mickelson, United States

Alastair Forsyth, Scotland

Brad Faxon, United States Rich Beem, United States Shaun Micheel, United States Nick Price, Zimbabwe

70-72 142 71-71 142 Chris DiMarco, United States 71-71 142 Justin Leonard, United States 70-72 142 68-74 142 Kenneth Ferrie, England

Joakim Haeggman, Sweden Paul Bradshaw, England lan Poulter, England Rory Sabbatini, South Africa

a-Stuart Wilson, Scotland Lee Westwood, England Mark Foster, England Tjaart van der Walt, South Africa 70-73 143

Hunter Mahan, United States Sandy Lyle, Scotland Andrew Oldcorn, Scotland Shigeki Maruyama, Japan Paul Casey, England Takashi Kamiyama, Japan

Keiichiro Fukabori, Japan

Raphael Jacquelin, France Mathias Gronberg, Sweden

Bob Tway, United States

Jerry Kelly, United States

Mark O'Meara, United States

Steve Flesch, United States

Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain

Mark Calcavecchia, United States

James Kingston, South Africa

Charles Howell, United States

Paul Broadhurst, England

Ignacio Garrido, Spain

Bob Estes, United States

Paul Wesselingh, England

Sean Whiffin, England

Paul McGinley, Ireland

Carl Pettersson, Sweden

Trevor Immelman, South Africa Stewart Cink, United States Martin Erlandsson, Sweden Bo Van Pelt, United States Tetsuji Hiratsuka, Japan

St. Louis	50	00	.029	_
Chicago	48	41	.539	8
Milwaukee	46	42	.523	9 1/2
Cincinnati	47	43	.522	9 1/2
Houston	44	45	.494	12
Pittsburgh	40	47	.460	15

Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 2

#### **SPORTS TRANSACTIONS**

#### MLB

CHICAGO CUBS-Activated RHP Todd Wellemeyer from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned INF Brendan Harris to Iowa of the PCL. MONTREAL EXPOS-Agreed to terms with C Erick San Pedro. COLUMBUS CATFISH-Added INF David Baglev to the roster from Vero Beach of the FSL

#### NBA

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS-Signed G Derek Fisher to a multiyear contract

INDIANA PACERS-Re-signed G

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS-Signed F Morris Peterson to an offer sheet.

Detroit Tigers starter Mike Maroth

pitches against the New York Yan-

kees in the second inning Friday,

July 16, 2004, in Detroit.

MINNESOTA LYNX-Placed G Nuria Martinez on the suspended list. NEW YORK LIBERTY-Signed F La'Keshia Frett.

#### NFL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION-Named Andre Collins director of retired players and Jason Belser regional director.

ATLANTA FALCONS-Signed FB Stanley Pritchett.

CINCINNATI BENGALS-Waived LB Dwayne Levels NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS-Signed

QB Jim Miller. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES-Released

#### **Olympics**

LB Tyreo Harrison.

US WATER POLO TEAM-Signed a four-year contract extension with men's national water polo team coach Ratko Rudic.

#### College

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE-Named Jack Key assistant commissioner and chief financial officer. GEORGIA-Fired Avery McLean, associate athletic director-marketing and promotion; Freddy Jones, associate athletic director-ticket operations; and Hoke Wilder, assistant athletic director for standards and new sports programs.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN-Named Craig Kennedy women's assistant basketball coach.

IOWA-Named Craig Neal associate head basketball coach, effective Aug. 1. Announced the retirement of Sam Alford, director of basketball operations. Named Rich Walker director of basketball operations.

LIMESTONE-Announced the resignation of T.W. Johnson, men's lacrosse coach, to become the men's assistant lacrosse coach at Hobart.

LOYOLA, NEW ORLEANS-Named Michael Doc Beeman baseball

MARYLAND-Named Carl Salyer men's water polo coach and Michael Garrison assistant track coach. NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE-Announced the resignation of Vicki Wooton, women's cross country

and track and field coach. NORTHWESTERN STATE-Named Mike Perniciaro softball coach. STANFORD-Named Conrad Ray

men's golf coach UAB-Announced the retirement of Larry VanDerHeyden, offensive line coach. Announced the resignation of Kevin Shirley, defensive backs coach. Named Brandon Herring guards and centers coach and Shawn Raney defensive backs coach.

VIRGINIA TECH-Named Stacey Palmore and Rick Hall men's assistant basketball coaches.

By The Associated Press



Attentions all players of the Northern Yankees and Miller Lite Brewers, your best-of-five series for the 2004 Saipan Major League championship begins tomorrow, July 19, 6:30pm at the Francisco M. Palacios baseball field.

### The Week in Sports



The CNMI Junior League and Senior League All-Stars arrive triumphant after winning the Asia-Pacific Tournament last week in Guam.

### **CNMI All-Stars make comeback**



PHOTOS AND TEXT By MARK RABAGO

wo out of three isn't that bad.
That's exactly what the
CNMI All-Stars did last week
in Guam in the occasion of
the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament
in Junior, Senior, and Big League.

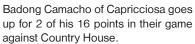
The Junior League All-Stars and Senior League All-Stars went through the backdoor in shocking host Guam in the championship last Wednesday at the Paseo Stadium in Agana.

The CNMI's best 13-14-year-olds turned back Guam 5-4 in the day's first

championship game, while the Senior Leaguers handed the hosts a 2-1 beating hours later. Both teams along with the second place Big League All-Stars returned to Saipan Friday.

In other sports news last week, the Century Insurance Co. Tennis Classic wrapped with Faheem Ebrahim and Mayuko Arriola topping the men's open and the women's 4.0, respectively.

Basketball also was big the past seven days with action in the 2004 UFO-San Miguel Cup and 2004 Inter-Restaurant Basketball League bringing in the crowd at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Dexter Cruzat of Country House attempts a shot against Capricciosa's Andy Viola during their IRBL game last Thursday. Capricciosa won 97-79.

> Pint-size Bryan Lontoc of Jollibee drives hard against El Segundo's John Jugos in their IRBL game Tuesday. Jollibee won 59-48.



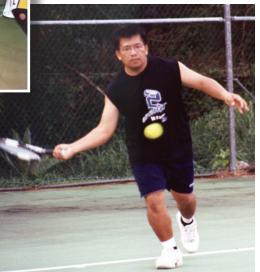
Ed Cosino of Visminda-Country House receives a gift certificate from EC Communication after winning MVP of the game honors in the UFO-San Miguel Cup game against Cavite Sunday.

Fil-American



Ryan Mendoza of Cabalen drives the baseline in the game against MDX Amateur Radio Club last Saturday in the UFO-San Miguel Cup. Cabalen won 135-91.

Renato "Dodong" Espanola returns a forehand to Elmer Guzman in their men's 4.0 championship. Espanola won the CIC Tennis Classic division in straight sets.



Richard Asuncion accepts his and partner Gerald Narciso's men's 4.5 doubles championship trophies during the CIC Tennis Classic awards banquet.



Faheem Ebrahim, third from left, receives his men's open championship trophy. Also in the photo with Ebrahim are, from left, CIC general manager Nel Matanguihan, men's open runner-up Tim Quan, and FILATA president Eli Buenaventura.



#### Kendall leads British Open by one stroke

A memorable week at the British Open turned surreal for Skip Kendall on Friday.

25



CNMI
All-Stars
make
comeback
Two out of three isn't
that bad.



28 SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By MARK RABAGO REPORTER

They did it again!

After hoisting the third-place trophy in last year's Marianas Basketball Tournament in Palau, the CNMI women's basketball team affirmed its powerhouse status in the region by landing the bronze medal once more in the recent Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Guam.

It was a roller-coaster ride for the 10 cagebelles under the baton of head coach Donald Blondin. They debuted a bit shaky with a 44-72 loss to Palau last July 5 but bounced right back into medal contention after mauling Chuuk 57-46 the next day.

Facing a deep and talented Guam squad in their third game on July 7, Team CNMI holstered its guns—Blondin probably thought prudence was the better part of valor—and succumbed to a 41-90 beating.

The CNMI women then forgot the drubbing by routing Pohnpei 61-51 the very following day. With a win against Palau separating them from meeting Guam in the game for all the marbles, Blondin's girls scratched and clawed their way before losing 49-60 last July 9.

The women finally salvaged the third-place finish after they repeated over Pohnpei 71-60 on July 10.

The CNMI women's squad consists of Krista Cruz, Henny Elayda, Chariss Ruluked, Vanessa Diaz, Dana Ngirchongor, Emily Oitreong, Vanessa Mobel, Ladonna Castro, Connie Camacho and All-Tournament Team member Beverly Igitol.

Blondin and the younger players of the squad came back to Saipan in the



RICKY ITAAS

Coach Donald Blondin gives instructions to the girls during one of their games in the Micronesian Basketball Tournament held inside the University of Guam Field House.

morning of July 11, while the remaining six members of the team returned later in the afternoon.

Before hopping into a plane for a much-deserved vacation to the Philippines on Monday, Blondin spoke to the Saipan Tribune and said how delighted he was coaching a bunch of young women who—generally—did as they were told and never backed down from anyone.

Blondin said his team was always at a disadvantage throughout the tournament. Not only did he had to make do with a 10-man roster, Blondin also admitted that he was only able to use six players in the games against Guam and Palau because of injuries and the relative inexperience of some of his players.

"We essentially played only six



MARK RABAGO

The girls and some of members of the CNMI men's team hold up the Microl Corp. banner while they pose below the Mobil scoreboard inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Microl and Mobil were the main sponsors of men and women's team that saw action in the MBT.

players in those crucial games. Vanessa [Diaz], Chariss [Ruluked], Dana

[Ngirchongor], Connie [Camacho], Krista [Cruz], and Beverly [Igitol] was

the rotation against Guam and Palau. Vanessa [Mobel] hurt her ankle and the other three players were not yet ready for that level of competition."

He said despite that handicap he could never really ask for anything more from his players. Blondin said Diaz caught the eye of opposing coaches because of her work inside the shaded lane. Camacho, for her part, was simply a workhorse in the second game against Palau where he shut down that team's leading scorer.

Blondin also reaped praises on Ruluked and Igitol. He said if he were to pick a team MVP it would be Ruluked because the playmaker was the glue that held them all together.

Igitol, on the other hand, was easily one of the tournament's most exciting and best players. She managed to be named to the All-Tournament Team despite not practicing at all weeks prior to the MBT because of the death of her sister.

Team-wise, Blondin said the CNMI women are years ahead of Chuuk and Pohnpei but are three to four good players short of battling Guam and Palau for Micronesian basketball supremacy.

"With more regional tournaments under their belts the younger players could only get better. Some of the older ones would have to go off-island for college but we [BANMI] have a good pool of players coming up to replace them," he said.

Blondin said he hopes to harness the team's full potential the next few months when the women see action in the 2004 Saipan Rotary Club Basketball League, where they are entered as a guest team.